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REMARKS

Claim 26 has been amended. Claims 1-32 are pending.

The specification has been amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action.

The parenthetical statements above several of the claims have been removed. Also, claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 18.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 17 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Rangarajan, US 6,275,225. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites 1 a method for displaying managed object data associated with managed resources which includes (1) receiving at least one managed object selection and a task selection to apply to the at least one managed object selection, and (2) identifying at least one view definition corresponding to the task selection that defines a view with which to display managed object data related to the at least one managed object selection. A view corresponding to the view definition is displayed on a graphical user interface of a computer system, and managed object data related to the managed object selection is displayed within the view.

As described in the present application, the above method provides flexibility in creating new or modified views for managed object data as new managed objects and/or tasks are added to a system even after the resource management application has been deployed. The flexibility stems in part from the association of view definitions with both tasks and managed objects. That is, a view definition is identified based upon the selection of a particular task to be applied to a particular object. This feature enables a user to view managed object data in different ways depending on the task that is being applied. Examples of types of tasks include systems management, configuration or monitoring operations. In one embodiment, the association of tasks and objects with views is made via a data dictionary as depicted in Figure 4.

Rangarajan shows a system that constructs user-configurable graphical user interfaces (GUIs), with application to the field of network management. A "wizard" is used to elicit a user's input regarding various aspects of the contents of a GUI, including topology information and alarm information. The resulting GUI or "configuration", an example of which is shown in Figure 9, has various panes where the desired information is shown, and includes "selectable control areas" or SCAs that can be activated to invoke certain operations. In the GUI of Figure 9, for example, an SCA 909 can be activated to obtain "device detail" information.

In Rangarajan, a distinction must be drawn between the process of creating configurations and the process, such as a network management console, that utilizes the configurations that have been created. Most of the disclosure of Rangarajan is focused on the former, i.e., the processes by which configurations are created. The end result of these processes is a set of configurations that can be used in a process such as a network management console. The sole example given of the use of a configuration is in Figure 9. This distinction is made to highlight an important shortcoming of Rangarajan as it pertains to the present application – in Rangarajan, there is no choosing of a configuration based on a task selected to be performed on a selected object. In Rangarajan, a configuration is chosen in the context of a "profile manager" depicted in Figures 7 and 8, which is entirely separate from any process of selecting tasks to be performed on managed objects. It will be observed that there is no facility within the profile manager that enables a user to perform management functions on managed objects – the selection of configurations is done solely in response to user input explicitly specifying which configuration to use, without reference to any user-selected task or any managed objects. Similarly, the network management console depicted in Figure 9 has no linkage back to the profile manager such that a configuration can be chosen on the basis of a user's selection of a task and a managed object – the console simply uses the configuration that has been pre-selected by the user via the profile manager.

It is noted that column 9 of Rangarajan, which is referred to in the Office Action, is seen to describe the use of the profile manager, which is summarized above. Thus, contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, this section of Rangarajan is not seen to teach identifying a view definition corresponding to a received task selection and a received managed object selection. Rather, this section describes only the creation, management and selection of configurations by a user in an explicit, menu-driven process apart from any network management operations.

It is respectfully submitted that Rangarajan does not anticipate claim 1, because it fails to teach all the elements thereof. Specifically, Rangarajan fails to teach (1) receiving at least one managed object selection and a task selection to apply to the at least one managed object selection, and (2) identifying at least one view definition corresponding to the task selection that defines a view with which to display managed object data related to the at least one managed object selection. As described above, Rangarajan discloses that configurations are explicitly selected by a user in the context of a "profile manager", entirely separate from any process of selecting tasks to be performed on managed objects. There is no method or data structure disclosed within Rangarajan that associates a user-selected task with a view definition, such that managed object information from the execution of the task is displayed in accordance with the corresponding view. In Rangarajan, information is displayed only in accordance with a configuration that is explicitly chosen by the user (via the profile manager) in advance of any console operation executed from the configuration screen. Accordingly, Rangarajan is not seen to teach these elements of claim 1, and therefore cannot anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 17, 30 and 31 recite, either directly or indirectly, the above-discussed features of claim 1, and therefore the above remarks with respect to the applicability of Rangarajan are likewise applicable to these claims.

In the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Besaw, US 20020198973. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 recites a server-executed method of providing access to managed object data that includes parsing a view definitions document, an object definitions document and an object data document to create a data dictionary that contains a master view definition, task definitions, view definitions and managed object data definitions, and that further defines, for each task definition, a use case that defines a mapping of a view definition to a portion of a managed object data definition. The method further detects an initiation of a resource management process, and passes the data dictionary to the resource management process to allow the resource management process to process the data dictionary.

As described in the present application, this technique also provides for flexibility in creating, modifying, and deploying new views in a system such as a resource management system, and does so while enabling the resource management process to be relatively "light weight", i.e., not requiring predefined or hard-coded knowledge of all resources and all views that might be needed at all times. A developer of a managed resource simply needs to create task, object and view definitions for the resource. These can be incorporated into view definition and object definition documents, which are in turn utilized by the server to create the data dictionary used by the resource management process to access the management functionality specified thereby.

Besaw discloses a system having a "management information portal" or MIP 134 via which a browser-based client can obtain network information. Included in the MIP are a module library 205, a filter library 207, and a user configuration database 209. The user configuration database 209 specifies, on a per-customer basis, which modules and filters are to be utilized in obtaining and presenting network information to the customer. As shown in Figure 7, the MIP

parses the user configuration database to identify and apply user-specific security and display filters in generating results to be displayed to the user.

Paragraphs 26-30, 46 and 49 of Besaw, which are referred to in the Office Action, refer to specific aspects of "customized management services" provided to a customer or user, including the above-described functionality of the user configuration database 209. As stated in paragraph 31, an edit manager (EM) 304 allows a service provider to edit a customer configuration file that may be a record, text file, etc. and is stored in the user configuration database 209. Each configuration record contains customer-specific information such as display preferences and security filter definitions. Paragraph 49 mentions that the configuration record is parsed to determine which modules from the module library are applicable to the customer. Paragraphs 42-46 describe examples of security and display filters that are invoked when a customer logs into the MIP 134, resulting in the creation of subsets of nodes for which information is to be displayed. These filters are specified in XML.

There does not appear to be any dictionary-like item in Besaw that is created from any definition-like document. The security and display filters appear to be created by a text editor or other tool that can generate XML code, and not algorithmically based on the contents of any separate definition-like documents. The creation of the user configuration file does not seem to be specified at all, and certainly is not described as being generated based on the contents of separate definition-like documents. Thus, notwithstanding these portions referred to in the Office Action, Besaw is not seen to teach any dictionary-like item that is created from any definition-like documents.

It is respectfully urged that Besaw does not anticipate claim 14, because it fails to teach all the elements thereof. Specifically, Besaw is not seen to teach parsing a view definitions document, an object definitions document and an object data document to create a data dictionary that contains a master view definition, task definitions, view definitions and managed object data definitions, and that further defines, for each task definition, a use case that defines a

mapping of a view definition to a portion of a managed object data definition. Besaw shows only the use of filters and a user configuration file that specifies which filters are to be utilized in displaying information to the user. None of these items is created from a set of definition-like documents. Additionally, none of these items includes a master view definition, task definitions, view definitions and managed object data definitions, and further defines, for each task definition, a use case that defines a mapping of a view definition to a portion of a managed object data definition. Rather, in Besaw each filter is specific to its domain, i.e., security or display, and does not contain the multi-faceted collection of data in a data dictionary as recited in claim 14. Also, the user configuration file of Besaw merely specifies which of the modules to employ, and is not seen to include at least a master view definition, task definitions, and managed object data definitions, nor a use case that defines a mapping of a view definition to a portion of a managed object data definition. As no other items in Besaw seem to be relevant, it appears that these elements of claim 1 are absent from Besaw, and therefore Besaw cannot anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 15-16 are dependent from claim 14, and therefore the above remarks with respect to the applicability of Besaw are likewise applicable to these claims.

In the Office Action, claims 2-13, 18-29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Rangarajan and Besaw. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is founded primarily on a combination of selected portions of Rangarajan and Besaw which have been individually applied to other claims (e.g. claims 1 and 14 as described above). Inasmuch as these references fail to teach all the elements of the above-discussed claims individually, they likewise fail to teach all the elements of claims 2-13, 18-29 and 32 which at least in part are combinations of the above-discussed claims. For at least these reasons, then, these references cannot render claims 2-13, 18-29 and 32 obvious, because they fail to teach all the elements thereof.

Additionally, it appears that in many cases the specific language of claims 2-13, 18-29 and 32 is being ignored in the assertions with respect to Besaw. Many statements in the Office Action appear conclusory and refer only very generally to paragraphs of Besaw, with no explanation of how all the specific claim limitations are found within the paragraphs. With respect to claim 2 for example, Besaw is not seen to teach a data dictionary as set forth in the claim, and in fact the Office Action offers no explanation at all of how this claimed subject matter is to be found in Besaw. The Office Action merely refers to paragraph 27 of Besaw in a conclusory manner. However, this paragraph describes only the existence of a database of the types of services available to customers, and does not describe anything that can be characterized as a "master view", for example, that is displayed on a GUI to enable a user to provide a task selection and a managed object selection. Without such a master view, Besaw cannot show the claimed data dictionary, which contains the master view. Likewise with respect to the subject matter of claims 3 and 19 – paragraph 27 of Besaw in no way describes a use case that is associated with a task definition and an object selection and that identifies a view definition in which data pertaining to the object and the task is displayed, and the Office Action in fact does not make any such specific allegation. Thus, these claims are seen to recite additional features that are also missing from Rangarajan and Besaw, and therefore are not rendered obvious thereby.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application complies with all statutory requirements and is therefore allowable. Favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney to resolve any issues that might be remaining after this amendment.

If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee necessary, this fee may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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